

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent

In re patent application of: OUIMET et al

Serial No.: 09/647,780

Filed: December 26, 2000

For: NOVEL NEP II MEMBRANE
METALLOPROTEASE AND ITS USE FOR
SCREENING INHIBITORS USEFUL IN
THERAPY

Examiner: Walicka, Malgorzata A.

Art Unit: 1652

Docket #: P06910US00/BAS



#15
LgJ
10/2/02

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

S I R:

Applicants hereby respond to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 28,
2002.

REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement mailed August 28, 2002, the Examiner applying the standard under PCT Rule 13.1, identified ten groups for restriction (Group I - X). Specifically, the Examiner identified Group I (claims 1-6, 11, 13 and 14), drawn to a novel membrane protease of SEQ ID NO:2, encoding DNA, expression vector host cell, antibody and a method of use of the enzyme in the screening for its inhibitors;

Group II (claim 7), drawn to a method for immunologically detecting the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2 in a cell;

Group III (claims 8 and 9), drawn to a method for detecting the expression of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 in a cell;

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2002